

The increase in availability of Soviet Bloc publications, previously prohibited for export, has continued. It is perhaps significant that the Soviets have expanded the publication and release of statistical handbooks containing factual data on whole segments of their economic development, and that there appears to be a cumulative relaxation on the release of Soviet Bloc published source materials containing valuable information for intelligence purposes. In order to insure the proper exploitation of this increased volume for the intelligence community, steps have been taken by CIA to augment the work of current facilities through external contractual arrangements. The procurement of foreign language publications has been made more efficient through an active program of coordination of requirements in Washington and of collection in the field. The exchange-of-publications programs of the several members of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications were exploited to obtain scarce or otherwise difficult to procure titles. Special reports on the Communist Chinese press in Peking and book publication in Mongolia were submitted by USIA. As the reporting period closed, a paper was in preparation to evaluate the contribution of overt publications to intelligence research.